

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.  
Jiddu Krishnamurti, Indian philosophical and spiritual writer

## 10B Exam time

### 1 VOCABULARY exams

Match the verbs to the definitions.

cheat cram fail pass sit take

- 1 achieve the necessary standard in an exam pass
- 2 act in an unfair way to get an advantage \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 do an exam \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 not be successful in an exam \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 learn a lot in a short time before an exam \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 READING

- a Read the article once and match the headings with the paragraphs. There is one extra heading you do not need to use.

- A Revising for more than one exam
- B Alone or with friends?
- C Dealing with unwanted distractions
- D On the morning of the exam
- E Making the most of your revision time
- F Once the exam starts

## LAST-MINUTE EXAM TIPS

Exams have a habit of **creeping up on** us and there never seems to be enough time to cover everything. So what can you do to make sure that you perform as well as possible on the day of the exam? It is never too late to learn, so read on!

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## 1 \_\_

Texting friends or twittering for three hours – with good intentions to revise – will not help. But ten minutes will, if you work the rest of the time and do nothing else. Have a ten-minute break and then start again, gradually building up to 20- or 40-minute periods, while keeping breaks to ten minutes or less. It works – try it and see. Use this technique whenever **your mind wanders**, and you will make progress. When you work, work; and when you play, play. The two do not mix.

## 2 \_\_

Use the time between exams wisely and keep your revision on track. Forget the exams that you have just taken. There is nothing you can do to influence them now, but there is a lot you can do to improve your performance in the ones yet to be taken. That is where your efforts should lie. Change the order of the subjects you revise in one evening, starting with the one you hate and finishing with the one you like best. You may even get to like that hated subject as you **get to grips with it**.

## 3 \_\_

A leisurely breakfast and a walk to the venue is a good start on any day when you have an exam. Do not rush, but do not be late, either. Avoid friends – they can be **off-putting** and may confuse your thoughts. Do not cram new information on the night before an exam. A little anxiety is generally to be expected and will help **keep you on your toes**.

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#### 4 —

Take six deep breaths to relax and read through the questions, jotting down formulae and points to remember on the question paper. Choose your questions, starting with the ones you know you can do to build confidence. Do not spend too long on any one question, and try to do the number required. Use the number of marks for each question as a guide and make sure you do the compulsory questions, if there are any.

#### 5 —

Do not be afraid to speak up if the invigilator's squeaky shoes are disturbing your concentration. Those whispers between invigilators when they change watch during exams can be just as annoying. That should not happen, so do not be afraid to say if it disturbs you. It is your exam after all, and you want to be able to sit it under the best possible conditions. If you feel unwell during an exam, make sure that your teacher knows. You could get special consideration if you under-perform.

Good luck, whatever your state of readiness. And remember that you can always improve by adopting the tips here which work for you.

- b** Read the article again and choose the right answer.
- 1 The article recommends that students who are revising should work...
    - a in ten minute periods.
    - b in up to 40-minute periods.
    - c with a break every hour.
  - 2 If you are taking exams in several different subjects...
    - a concentrate on only one subject each evening.
    - b always start by revising the subject you like least.
    - c check your answers to the exams you have already taken.
  - 3 The article says that feeling nervous on the morning of the exam...
    - a can be a good thing.
    - b doesn't matter if your friends are too.
    - c only happens when people are late for an exam.

- 4 When you turn over the exam paper, the article says you should...
  - a make notes next to each question.
  - b start with the questions you know least about.
  - c do all of the questions in order.
- 5 The article suggests that ideal exam conditions are when...
  - a there are enough invigilators.
  - b candidates can concentrate fully.
  - c a doctor is on hand to deal with any problems.

## 4 GRAMMAR revision of verb forms

a Circle the correct verb form.

- 1 We have / *We're having* exams three times a year.
- 2 *I know* / *I've known* my girlfriend since school.
- 3 The sun *shone* / *was shining* when I woke up this morning.
- 4 Be quiet! The teacher *is giving out* / *gives out* the papers.
- 5 She's staying in tonight because *she's going to* / *she'll* revise.
- 6 I need a rubber. *I've made* / *I made* a mistake.
- 7 *I took* / *I was taking* my driving test six months ago.
- 8 *He spoke* / *He has spoken* to his teacher yesterday about his results.
- 9 *I'm going to* / *I'll* lend you my notes if you like.
- 10 Max couldn't go out because *he spent* / *he'd spent* all his money.

**b** Complete the dialogues. Use the correct form of the verb in brackets. Contractions count as one word.

1 A How old are those houses?

B They were built in the 1960s. (build)

2 A Why do you miss the sea?

B Because I \_\_\_\_\_ on the coast. (live)

3 A Can't you stay a bit longer?

B No, I \_\_\_\_\_ home now. (go)

4 A Why are you complaining about your room?

B Because it \_\_\_\_\_ properly.  
(not clean)

5 A Why does your hair look different?

B Because I've \_\_\_\_\_ a different colour. (dye)

6 A Why didn't Jack drive to work this morning?

B Because \_\_\_\_\_ his car. (start)

7 A Why don't we go to Australia for a year?

B Because \_\_\_\_\_ my job if we did. (lose)

8 A Why are you angry with me?

B Because I asked \_\_\_\_\_ the dinner and you haven't. (make)

9 A Why is she crying?

B Because her boyfriend said \_\_\_\_\_ her. (not love)

10 A Why didn't you speak to Millie?

B I didn't recognize her. \_\_\_\_\_ it was her, of course I would have spoken to her. (know)

## 5 LISTENING

- a **iChecker** You are going to hear a radio programme about the international PISA tests. Which three countries get the highest marks in these tests?
- b Listen again and complete the notes.

### PISA

(Programme for International Student <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_)

**Organized by:** the <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose:** to evaluate the <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of each country

**Year when first tests were held:** <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

**Tests held:** every <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

**Age of students:** <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

**Subjects tested:** maths, science, and <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

**Length of test:** <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

**Factors contributing to good results:**

Asia: high <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_  
high standard of teaching  
focus on understanding

Finland: high standard of teaching  
no child left behind  
community <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in educators